

Saint Mark Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America Archdiocese of Washington 7124 River Road Bethesda, MD 20817 Church Office: 301-229-6300 www.stmarkoca.org	Rector V. Rev. Gregory Safchuk Office: 301-229-6300 Home: 301-320-0739 gsafchuk@hotmail.com admin@stmarkoca.org	Parish Council President: Thomas Jenkins Home: 410-200-0165 taj@toucan411.com
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JUNE 21st, 2026

EPISTLE Rom. 5:1 – 10	GOSPEL Matt. 6:22 – 33	Tone 2
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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Martyr Julian of Tarsus in Cilicia (3rd – 4th c.). Hieromartyr Terence (Tertius), Bishop of Iconium (1st c.). St. Julius, Presbyter of Novara, and his brother, St. Julian the Deacon (5th c.). Martyrs Archil II (744) and Luarsab II (1622), Kings of Georgia.

Saturday	June	20	5:30p	Vespers
Sunday	June	21	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
Saturday	June	27	5:30p	Vespers
			6:15p	Bible Study
Sunday	June	28	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream <i>Honoring graduates immediately following Liturgy</i>
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
Monday	June	29	10:00a	Divine Liturgy – Ss. Peter and Paul – YouTube Livestream
Saturday	July	4	5:30p	Vespers
Sunday	July	5	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
<i>Schedule continues on back page.</i>				

Tuesday	July	7	10:30a	St. Olga of Alaska Prayer Group – Intercessory Prayer
Saturday	July	11	4:00p	Wedding Blessing of James and Lauren Massie
			5:30p	Vespers
Sunday	July	12	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship

The **Altar Candles** are offered by **Tammy McDonald** in celebration of **Michael McDonald's** birthday! May God grant him many years!
 The **Sanctuary Candles** are offered by **Larisa McKay**.

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses
June 21	Burpee
June 28	Mihailov

Choir Directors, Readers, Preparers, Greeters, & Altar Servers

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
June 21	W. Tatusko	Rdr. N. Fitzgerald	R. Jefferson	N. Stanton	All eligible altar servers welcome!
June 28	W. Tatusko D. Hardy	R. Kundell	Rdr. V. Lutes	M. Macht	

Donation

To make a donation electronically, please scan the QR Code:
Please specify the purpose of your donation in the text box.

(Example: candles, general purpose, pledge, etc.)

Thank you!



PRAYER REQUEST - O Christ, You alone are our Defender: Visit and help Thy servants who are in need of your help, protection and healing. Among them: Christina & Michael Berencz; Vera Bumbak; Helen Damiani; Shirley & Paul Dean; Margaret Dove; Julia Flick; Philip Hydock; John & Patricia Ihnat; Linda Jackson; Stacy Jacobsen; Cindy & David Jefferson; Steve Kreta; Alex Landsburg; Marilyn Macht; Joan Mitchum; John Michael Mikuluk; Mary Mytryshyn; Millie Mytryshyn; Drs. Mary and Anna Nemesh; David Rodak; Alexandra Sedor; Mka. Alexandra Safchuk; Peter Sielinski; Ann Steger; Cliff Tarpy; Marsha Zelle.

Please pray for **Doreen** Dyer, friend of Jack and Ginny Albert. **Becky; Eileen, Rosemary and Robert**, friends of Tina Burpee. **Hannah**, friend of Theodora Dean. **Shannon and Matt**, daughter and son-in-law of John Hendrickson. **Paul** Giovetis, **Denise** (Dionysia), Godsis-ter of Christina Kalavritinos, and also family friends **Constantine** and **Thomas; Olga**, friend of Helen Kerch; **Mary** Everhart, mother of Ted Koopersmith; **Alexandra**, Granddaughter of Larisa Looby; **Sandra** Little, Dawn Little's mother-in-law. Marilyn Macht's friend **Car-men**; friend **Ken** Reichard; cousins **Helen** and **Linda. Marina** McKee; **Mka. Kelly** Oleynik; **Amanda** St.Cyr, sister-in-law of Susan Rodak; **Marjorie** Sielinski; **Rosemarie**, sister-in-law of Nancy Stanton. Don Truitt's mother, **Janet**;

Deliver them from sickness and grievous pains. Raise them up that they may sing to Thee and praise Thee without ceasing, through the prayers of the Theotokos and all your Saints!



WELCOME VISITORS! We invite you downstairs following Liturgy for coffee and light refreshments in the parish hall.

2026 GRADUATES We will honor our graduates on Sunday, June 28th, immediately following Divine Liturgy!

NEXT EVANGELIZER The next edition of the Evangelizer is right around the corner! Gather your photos, articles, etc., and please submit to Sharon no later than June 25th. Thank you!

SOME HELP NEEDED The work on the church courtyard is expected to begin this week. We need several people to help dismount the bells, disassemble the wood frame after Divine Liturgy on 6/21. This should go very quickly if we have enough help to move the large bells. Realizing it is Father's day, we don't expect this to take very long if we have willing hands and a couple of screw guns. Please come out and help. See Tom Jenkins!

*****NEW ITEMS IN GIFT SHOP*** COME AND CHECK US OUT!** We have censors, incense, charcoal, head-scarfs, children's books, St. Mark coffee mugs, Koliva stencils, auto accessories, and handmade icons (which benefit the HVAC fund). We also have the following new books: "The History of the Miraculous Icons of the Theotokos", "Prayer Rope" book from St. Nektarios Monastery and many 33 knot prayer ropes. Let us know if there is anything specific you want us to order for you especially if you have a Chrismation or Baptism coming up. We are here to be a blessing to our parish community. Anelia and Carol Mary (Gift Shop Coordinators)

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY Bible Study will take place Saturday, June 27th. Earlier presentations are up on youtube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@doug Dillon1956>

Happy Birthday To You!
May God Grant You Many Years!

22 Salomea Jankovic
Peter Sielinski
23 Michael Hydock
25 Harell Little
26 Nicola Ilario
27 Dawn Little

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent confession may participate in Holy Communion. Following reception of Holy Communion, we should stay in the church until the conclusion of the Liturgy. Our fellowship begins after we venerate the Cross and receive the Blessed Bread (of which all may partake). If you have questions concerning the above, please feel free to speak with Fr. Gregory after Liturgy.

ON COMMUNION: The fasting rules concerning communion apply to those who are healthy enough to keep them. If for example, you require medication that cannot be taken on an empty stomach, please speak to me about the possible need to eat or drink something along with it in the morning prior to liturgy. Thanks! Fr. Gregory

CHILDREN'S BOOKS Two baskets of children's books are now located in the vestibule, behind where the greeters stand and next to the stairway to the choir loft. Children should feel free to borrow the books and can return them to the baskets.

TO OUR VISITORS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: If you are seeking a quiet place to nurse or calm a rambunctious child, there are two rooms off of the main hallway on this floor to serve you. Our library is the second door on the left as well as our teen classroom, the last door on the left, at the end of the hallway. The library has rocking chairs, and both rooms offer comfortable couches and moderate privacy. Changing tables are located in the Ladies room on the upper level and in the Men's room on the lower level.

IT'S JUST BREAKFAST: New in June! 1st or 3rd Saturday in June at the Orchard Cafe in Odenton, MD. Questions? See David Jefferson. Thank you!

ST. MARK WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP will meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom. Watch this space for possible date changes. The next books for discussion are:

July 2 - "How to Read a Book" a novel by Monica Wood
Aug 6 - "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" by Agatha Christie

ROMANIA PILGRIMAGE 2026

“Spiritual Treasures of Orthodox Romania” When: September 30 – October 13, 2026

Led by: Fr. Robert Miclean (leading Romania pilgrimages since 2011)

Join Holy Archangels Orthodox Church on a two-week pilgrimage through Romania, venerating relics and wonder-working icons while visiting the country’s holiest monasteries and churches.

Highlights include:

ProVita orphanage in Valea Plopului

Crasna Monastery, Sinaia & Peleş Castle

The painted monasteries of Bucovina (Vornic, Moldovița, Sucevița) and Putna Monastery
Monasteries in Moldova: Bistrița, Pângărați, Petru Voda, Sihăstria, Agapia, Văratec
Bucharest’s Old & New Patriarchal Cathedrals (the latter newly consecrated as the tallest Orthodox church in the world), plus St. George the New, St. Spiridon, and Antim Monastery

This pilgrimage is open to all Orthodox Christians and interested catechumens — a chance to deepen your faith, experience Orthodox Romanian culture, and support the children of ProVita. Contact: 262-844-2369 | OrthodoxChesapeake.org

VACATION BIBLE CAMP: THE ARMOR OF GOD Ss. Peter & Paul invites sister parishes to its Vacation Bible Camp for middle and highschoolers, Mon. Aug 17 – Fri. Aug 21, 9:30 AM–4:30 PM. Activities include Bible study, iconography, holy bread baking, and lessons on faith and outreach. Cost is \$50 per child (\$25 per additional sibling); parent volunteers are needed for shifts. Questions? Contact Michelle at michellegboyle@yahoo.com or (703) 937-7319. For more information see the flier on the candle counter!

OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL Please visit our very own YouTube channel at <https://youtube.com/@stmarkoca>! Not only can you stream all of our regular services, but you can also see past Lenten lectures and some other special services.

While you are there, please take a moment to subscribe. There is no cost or obligation to you, but we do need another 150 or so subscribers to reach the level where we can more easily produce our videos. Please visit and subscribe!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR ST. MARY’S VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL!

Join us July 27–31 from 8:30 AM–12:30 PM for “Becoming Blessed: Living the Beatitudes,” a joyful and hands-on Orthodox Christian summer experience for children ages 4–12!

Throughout the week, children will:

- Learn about Christ’s Beatitudes through Scripture and the lives of the saints
- Participate in crafts, games, music, prayer, and outdoor adventures
- Explore our gardens and parish grounds
- Create prayer stones, murals, sacred art, and a child-sized prayer shrine in our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd garden
- Build friendships with children from St. Mary’s, neighboring Orthodox parishes, and the wider community

Each day will include prayer, Orthodox crafts, outdoor activities, songs, snacks, and opportunities to grow in mercy, peacemaking, humility, and love for God.

The week will conclude with a special Divine Liturgy and Cross Procession on Saturday, August 1 at 9:00 AM to mark the beginning of the Dormition Fast. Families are encouraged to attend as we celebrate all the children have learned and created throughout the week.
July 27–31 - 8:30 AM–12:30 PM - Ages 4–12

St. Mary Orthodox Church, Falls Church To Register: <https://onrealm.org/stmaryorthodox/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=M2Q1NWE4MzItYWwMi00ZGE2LWE4ZWtY-jQ0YjAwZGZjNzJi>

Space is limited, so register today! If the registration fee presents a hardship, please speak with Fr. David—we do not want cost to prevent any child from participating. Come discover the beauty, peace, and joy of life in Christ!

LADIES FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY We had a lovely afternoon today watching the Sight & Sound Performance of “RUTH” and enjoyed a lenten potluck together.

Next month’s activity will be on THURSDAY, July 16th from 11:00-2:00 p.m. We will be watching the story of Queen Esther. Read ahead the story if you would like. The Book of Esther is 10 chapters long.

Please bring a non-fasting dish to share! Looking forward to our next fellowship together! RSVP to Carol Mary (cjashley2@protonmail.com) if you can join us!

HVAC FUNDRAISING Perhaps you've seen the fundraising posters around our church building. As per our most recent parish meeting, we are about to embark on the replacement of the entire HVAC system at a total cost of approximately \$700,000. Funds have been set aside for this purpose for several years.

Presently, just over \$300,000 in reserves is available to dedicate to this project, some of which is the result of recent fundraisers and special gifts. We are applying for a second trust loan in the maximum amount of \$500,000, in case costs go over budget, which often happens with large projects such as this. The terms of the loan are not yet known, but the interest rate is likely to be more than 7% per annum. Our current loan is at 4.5% per annum, has a balance of \$486,218, and our monthly payment is \$3,523. Borrowing close to \$400,000 could double our monthly payments, due to the higher interest rate.

We realize that many may not be in a position to make a large donation. Our Lord regarded the donation of two mites from the poor widow as greater than all other gifts (Mark 12:42) because she gave all that she had, but some among us are blessed with a greater abundance of resources. This is a time to prayerfully consider a gift to reduce the strain on our parish finances.

HVAC FUNDRAISING - DONATING STOCK The stock market is now at an all-time high. You may own stocks that have increased significantly in value. For those in a position to do so, a very tax efficient way to donate to the HVAC project is to transfer appreciated stock into St. Mark's Schwab account. Several parish members have used this method recently.

For example, a person may be willing to make a gift of \$10,000. Rather than giving cash, that person could transfer stock purchased for \$4,000 that is now worth \$10,000. The generous donor would receive a tax deduction of \$10,000, and will not recognize capital gains tax on the \$6,000 increase. The donor can then purchase the same shares for the \$10,000 in cash the donor was otherwise willing to donate. This eliminates \$6,000 of capital gains tax, provides a donation to St. Mark of \$10,000, and increases the tax basis in the shares to \$10,000, reducing taxes on a future sale.

Please see our Treasurer, Michael Chow, or Wayne Tatusko, for information on how to donate stock.

FROZEN BAKED GOODS there are still a few frozen walnut rolls (\$25) available for sale. Proceeds go to the HVAC fund. See Tina Burpee during coffee hour if you are interested.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY IN OUR PARISH

- Library care and management
- Prospora baking
- Hydration of fresh decorative flowers in church
- Upkeep and maintenance of facility and grounds
- Parish hall setup for events
- Assistance with live streaming
- Coffee hour service
- Bell ringing
- Altar and Handmaid service
- Parish Council
- Choir
- Liturgical vestments repair (sewing buttons, etc.)

Check the bulletin for updates. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please see Fr. Gregory with questions.

CONSTRUCTION WORK AHEAD. We will soon see a transformation of our courtyard that should make the space more enjoyable for the St. Mark community and our visitors. Starting on Monday, June 22 (weather permitting), our courtyard will become a temporary construction zone and will be off limits until completion of the work roughly two weeks later. Sometime in early July, new, level permeable pavers will allow for better drainage and stormwater management in the courtyard area while enhancing its beauty and maintainability for many years to come. In addition, we will have a new permeable paver landing for our front stairs, which will replace the cracked concrete and help with stormwater runoff. These two areas, the courtyard and the front stairs area, will be cordoned off for a short period of time. Please pray for a good outcome and for the crew who will do the work for us. For your safety, please stay clear of these areas until the work is completed. Thank you!

ST MARK TSHIRTS ARE HERE! GET'EM WHILE IT'S HOT! Show your support for St. Mark by purchasing a T-Shirt! Black and White are standard cut. Burgandy and Gold are women's cut. Standard sizes available, special order sizes available by request! All shirts are \$30 and proceeds go to the St. Mark HVAC Fund! Cash, Check, Credit Card, Paypal payment methods accepted! See Michael Lungociu during coffee hour.

COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP There are some open slots to help out with coffee hour available for the remainder of June! Please consider where you are able to help. If you have any questions or want the link to the online version please see Debbi Dillon.